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# Fact Sheet

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## **VA: A Federal Employer of Choice**

More than 235,000 people – 13 percent of the federal work force – are employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Their skills range from doctors and nurses, personnel specialists and payroll workers, to cemetery maintenance specialists and experts in rating disabilities.

VA employees are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and other U.S. territories, plus the Philippine Islands (running a large medical clinic) and South Korea (overseeing a military discharge facility). They are the health-care professionals in 157 VA medical centers and 858 clinics, the counselors in 206 vet centers, the specialists in evaluating disabilities found in 57 regional offices and 25 benefits offices, and the cemetery workers at 120 national cemeteries.

### **The Workforce**

VA operates one of the largest health care systems in the United States. VA employs more than 14,700 physicians and 51,000 registered nurses, nurse anesthetists, practical nurses, and licensed practical nurses, all highly trained and dedicated to providing top quality health care to veterans and their families. Making sure veterans and their dependents receive accurate and timely financial payments, VA employs approximately 1,000 claims examiners and 530 loan specialists. VA's cemetery system staff consists of more than 1,400 employees committed to maintaining VA's veterans cemeteries as national shrines.

### **The Workforce is Diverse**

VA is an employer of choice for women, minority members and disabled people. It values the cultural diversity that allows employees to perform their best and provides the opportunities for them to advance as far as their talents will take them. The 136,798 women employed by VA comprise 58 percent of VA's workforce. The 88,035 African Americans, Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaskans represent 37 percent of VA's workforce. Veterans total 59,956, of whom 9,376 are women veterans and 16,868 are veterans with disabilities.

### **VA's Workforce is Aging**

VA is preparing to meet future work force challenges today. Forty-two percent of the VA work force is over the age of 50 and eligible for retirement. To make sure VA continues to have the employees it needs, a steering committee reviews the skills of the current work force, and the requirements and skills of the future work force. An evaluation found that 33 percent of the workforce is 41-50 years old; 17 percent is 31-40 years old; and only 7 percent is under 31 years of age.